

Remarks in Support of Patentability

Applicant respectfully requests deferral of consideration of the accompanying request for continued examination and the claim amendments made herein until a decision has been issued by the Commissioner in response to a petition filed 10 October 2005 for exercise of the Commissioner's supervisory authority in connection with this application.

The claims have been amended and further restricted to further distinguish the claims over the references applied by the examiner in rejecting the claims. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of the base being smaller than the area of each of the recesses so that in the absence the retaining fastener a cleat can wiggle in a recess and the ratio of the length of the mounting hole to width of the mounting hole is from about 8:7 to 10:7. Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations, taken in combination, are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art applied by the examiner in rejecting the claims.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 16 and 17 in combination, namely that the area of the base is smaller than the smallest area of the recess of any of the shoes of the plurality so that in the absence the retaining fastener the cleat may wiggle within the recess, and the ratio of length to width of the oblong aperture from 8 to 7 to about 10 to 7.

Claim 19 has been similarly amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 20, 21 and 22 in combination to recite that the area of base of each universal cleat is less than the area of the respective recess so that in the absence of a retaining screw the universal cleat may wiggle in the recess, and all of the cleats are universal cleats, and the area of the universal cleat base is from about 85% to 95% of the respective recess.

Claim 23 has been further amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 24, 25 and 26 by reciting that the area of the base of each universal cleat is less than the area of the respective recess so that in the absence of a retaining screw the universal cleat may wiggle in the recess, and all of the cleats are universal cleats in the area of a universal cleat base is from 85% to 95% of the respective recess.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims effectively distinguish the claims over the prior art as cited by the examiner heretofore in that none of the prior art, whether taken individually or in combination, teaches the or suggests the claims as currently amended.

Applicant respectfully solicits reconsideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance therefor.

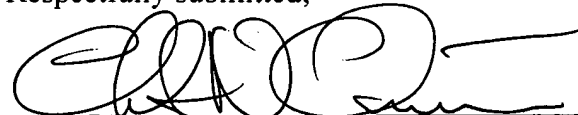
Applicant believes that Applicant has fully responded to the Examiner's concerns and that all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate issuance. Applicant respectfully requests immediate issuance of all pending claims.

To the extent there is any fee required in connection with the receipt, acceptance and/or consideration of this paper and/or any accompanying papers submitted herewith, please charge all such fees to Deposit Account 50-1943.

Applicant requests that any questions concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at (215) 299-2135.

Date: 20 October 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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BY:

Sherry BARAG

DATE:

Oct 20/2006

